

Appl. No. : 06/835,732
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a LCD coupled to the LCD housing such that said LCD is supported by said LCD housing, and wherein light received from the light source is transmitted from the LCD housing to the LCD.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 16, 17 and 20 have been amended by this paper. Claims 3 and 14 have been cancelled by this paper and claim 10 was cancelled previously. Claims 2, 5-9, 11-15, 18 and 19 remain unchanged by this amendment. Hence, by this paper, claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-13 and 15-20 are presented for further examination.

The specific changes to the amended Claims are shown on a separate set of pages attached hereto and entitled **VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**, which follows the signature page of this Amendment. On this set of pages, the insertions are underlined while the ~~deletions are stricken through~~.

In the above-identified Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 16, 17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential element(s), such omission amounting to a gap between the elements. In particular, the Examiner stated that "the omitted element is:

the above claims fail to state how the liquid crystal display (LCD) housing can be as light pipe conducting light from the light source directly to the LCD panel while the LCD housing made of a light transmissive material (emphasis added). It should be noted that light from light source would not be conducted to the LCD panel if the LCD housing is made of transmissive material since such light would be transmitted out of the LCD housing". (emphasis added)

Applicant expresses appreciation to the Examiner for the time he spent in a telephone interview with Applicant's attorney on February 26, 2003. During this telephonic interview, counsel for Applicant addressed the above-identified claim rejection. In particular, Applicant's counsel reminded the Examiner that in order to conduct light, the conducting material must be light transmissive. The act of conducting light through a medium necessarily involves the transmission of light through that medium. Accordingly, light conduction can only occur if the material through which the light travels is light transmissive.

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Whether or not light is further transmitted out of the structure depends upon factors such as the angle of incidence of the light traveling within the material, when it encounters an interface such as the surface of the material. Depending upon such factors, some light may pass through the interface to the adjacent medium, such as air. However, light remaining within the material will continue to travel therethrough. Accordingly, light remaining within the transmissive material comprising Applicant's claimed housing will continue to be conducted to the LCD panel

Nevertheless, counsel for Applicant agreed with the Examiner that to further define the conductive aspects of the invention, Applicant would include a limitation which is presented in Claim 1, for example, of "a reflective coating on at least a portion of a surface of the housing, wherein light is reflected by said reflective coating". By use of such a coating, which was previously defined in Claim 3, essentially all light loss is prevented from the coated surface, thus maximizing the amount of light conducted to the LCD through the light transmissive housing. Similar limitations have also been added to independent Claims 16, 17 and 20.

In the interview, counsel for Applicant reiterated that, unlike the prior art of record, the LCD housing is made in a single piece from a single light transmissive material which has the same light transmissive characteristics throughout. The use of a reflective coating on a surface of the housing does not change the structure of the housing itself.

During the interview, counsel for Applicant noted that in the prior art of record, the frame comprises the housing, and the plate is associated with the housing but does not itself provide the structural integrity for it to define or function as a housing. In contrast, in the invention defined by Applicant's claims, the housing is comprised of the single light transmissive material, which also accomplishes the function of the plate, that is a separate piece in the prior art. There is no separate housing required in Applicant's invention. Of course, as noted above, the coating is not a part of the LCD housing. The coating is not a structural member and is not used to provide structural strength to the housing.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the apparatus and method as defined in Claims 1, 16, 17 and 20 continues to define subject matter which is patentable over the art of record. Following the discussion of these matters in the telephonic interview, the Examiner stated that he believes that the addition of this reflective coating element overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and that the claims distinguish the invention over the prior art.

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The Examiner requested that Applicant also present these arguments, addressed in the interview, in the response to the pending Office Action. Applicant has complied with that request by inclusion herein of the pertinent arguments.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 16, 17 and 20 define subject matter which is patentable over the art of record. Furthermore, since claim 2 depends from independent Claim 1, Applicant submits that it also overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 for the reasons set forth above.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that Claims 1-9 and 11-20 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments presented herein, as discussed above, overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and therefore, that Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-13 and 15-20, as presented herein, define subject matter which is patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-13 and 15-20 are now in condition for immediate allowance and such prompt allowance of the same is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant has endeavored to address the concerns as expressed in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, amendments to the claims for patentability purposes pursuant to statutory sections 102, 103 and/or 112, the reasons therefore, and arguments in support of the patentability of the pending claims that are presented above.

Any claim amendments which are not specifically discussed in the above remarks are not made for patentability purposes, and it is believed that the claims would satisfy the statutory requirements for patentability without the entry of such amendments. Rather, these amendments have only been made to increase claim readability, to improve grammar, and to reduce the time and effort required of those in the art to clearly understand the scope of the claim language. Any new claims presented above are of course intended to avoid the prior art, but are not intended as replacements or substitutes for any cancelled claims. They are simply additional specific statements of inventive concepts described in the application as originally filed.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is specifically requested. If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment

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to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate the same with the undersigned.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE



1. (Amended) A computer display comprising:
a LCD housing made in a single piece from a single light transmissive material, said material having the same light transmissive characteristics throughout;
a light source coupled to the LCD housing;
a LCD coupled directly to the LCD housing;
a reflective coating on at least a portion of a surface of the LCD housing, wherein light is reflected by said reflective coating; and
wherein the LCD housing functions as a light pipe for conducting light from the light source directly to the LCD and protects the LCD.

4. (Amended) The computer display of claim 3 2 wherein the reflectively coated outer surface is comprised of a material that attenuates EMI emissions.

16. (Amended) A computer comprising:
a display panel;
first means for generating light for the display panel; and
second means made in a single piece from a single light transmissive material for housing the display panel, wherein the second means is connected directly to the display panel; and
a reflective coating on at least a portion of a surface of the second means, wherein light is reflected by said reflective coating;
wherein the second means functions as a light pipe so as to conduct light received from the first means for generating light directly to the display panel; and
wherein the single light transmissive material has the same light transmissive characteristics throughout.

17. (Amended) A method for conducting light in a computer system having a LCD and a LCD housing comprising:
generating light; and
conducting the generated light through the LCD housing directly to the LCD, wherein the LCD housing is made in a single piece from a single light transmissive material, wherein the LCD housing includes a reflective coating; and

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wherein the single light transmissive material has the same light transmissive characteristics throughout and functions as a light pipe for illuminating the LCD and as a housing which protects the LCD.

20. (Amended) A computer display comprising:

a LCD housing made by a unitary construction of a single translucent material which has the same light transmissive characteristic throughout;

a reflective coating on at least a portion of a surface of the LCD housing, wherein light is reflected by said reflective coating;

a light source coupled to the LCD housing so as to transmit light into the LCD housing;
and

a LCD coupled to the LCD housing such that said LCD is supported by said LCD housing, and wherein light received from the light source is transmitted from the LCD housing to the LCD.

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